

THE WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Wednesday being the day appointed for the meeting of the Whig National Convention to select candidates of the Whig Party for President and Vice President of the United States, the Delegates composing the Convention, and representing every State in the Union, began to assemble at the Great Hall of the Maryland Institute an hour or more before the time appointed for opening the Convention, so that by noon almost every Delegate appeared to be in his seat.

When, according to our time, I lacked about five minutes of twelve o'clock, Mr. GEORGE C. MORGAN, of Maryland, and Mr. SIMON DRAPER, of New York, rose simultaneously, apparently with a view to call the Convention to order.

Mr. DRAPER said that, the hour of twelve having arrived, he would move that the Hon. GEORGE EVANS, of Maine, be called temporarily to the President's chair.

The proposition was received with partial cheers and some negative voices, and, amidst loud applause, Mr. EVANS ascended the platform.

When quiet had been restored he addressed the Convention as follows:

Gentlemen of the Convention: I beg to return my grateful and respectful acknowledgments for the honor I have received at your hands, in being called upon to preside for a brief space over the proceedings of this Convention. I am but little experienced in the duties pertaining to the chair, and I shall have great occasion to rely upon your forbearance and intelligence. [Cheers.]

Allow me to express the hope that a spirit of order and decorum, of harmony, conciliation, and union, may prevail in our deliberations, [cheers and great applause:] so that when we have completed our labors, and shall adjourn, we may present an unbroken front, and be able to unfurl a signal standard around which all the Whigs of the Union can rally with the fullest hope of success. [Tremendous applause and cheers.]

Renewing my thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me, I accept the station to which you have been pleased to call me.

The President *pro tem.* then stated that the first business to be performed would be the appointment of a provisional Secretary, and invited the Convention to nominate some person to perform that duty; whereupon—

Mr. LUCAS, of Alabama, nominated Mr. R. A. UPTON, of Louisiana, as temporary Secretary; which nomination was unanimously confirmed.

On motion, Mr. JAMES W. BRYAN, of North Carolina, was elected Assistant Secretary.

Mr. BRODHEAD, of Missouri, moved that a committee of one from each delegation be appointed for the purpose of reporting permanent officers for the Convention.

Mr. JOSEPH G. SEVER, of Louisiana, rose to say a few words before this motion was put. I desire, (said he,) as a representative from the State of Louisiana, to enter my protest against all the action had to-day in this hall. The hour for the meeting of this Convention, appointed by the Whig Representatives in Congress, whose duty it was to fix the time and place for the meeting of this Convention, has not yet arrived. [Applause.] I came here as a representative of Louisiana before the hour of twelve, according to the time of the Observatory at Washington. I find that this meeting has been forestalled in its organization when a portion of the Whig Delegates is not present. [Applause, and cries of "good."] I believe I am the only representative present from the State of Louisiana, and there are several other Southern States not represented. I beg, under this state of affairs, that all the Whigs from the different States who desire from any further action, if they do not desire to destroy the unity, harmony, and success of the Whig party in this National Convention. [Loud applause.] The hour of twelve had not yet arrived, and when that hour shall arrive by the true time, as regulated by the Observatory at the city of Washington, the delegations will all be in their seats, and we shall select a temporary Chairman and other officers with the entire voice of the Whig representations from every State of the Union. [Applause.] I implore gentlemen not to pursue this course. It will throw a brand of discord into this Convention, which will result in the destruction, defeat, and final overthrow of the Whig party beyond all hope of redemption. I hope no further action will be taken until the hour of twelve shall arrive. And I beg leave to say that I have not the least objection to the present presiding officer, for I entertain for him the highest respect. [Applause.]

A Delegate inquired what Southern State was not represented? Mr. SEVER replied that all the delegation from Louisiana was not present, but would be here when the hour of twelve had arrived.

[The absent portion of the Louisiana delegation entered the hall during Mr. Sevier's remarks.]

The question was taken on the motion of Mr. BRODHEAD, to appoint a committee to select permanent officers, and it was agreed to.

The States were thereupon respectively called, and named the following gentlemen to constitute the committee:

W. P. Fessenden, of Maine. B. J. Stark, of Miss.
Isaac H. Bradley, of N. H. Jos. Bernard, of La.
Henry Bradley, of Vt. Charles Anderson, of Ohio.
Rufus Choate, of Mass. Joshua F. Bell, of Ky.
Robt. H. Ives, of R. I. Col. J. Netherland, of Tenn.
Dan'l P. Tyler, of Conn. Wm. G. Ewing, of Ind.
Amos P. Granger, of N. Y. Geo. C. Bingham, of Mo.
Wm. L. Dayton, of N. J. T. A. James, of Ark.
Wm. Jewett, of Penn. David Smart, of Mich.
John M. Clarke, of Del. Ed. C. Cabell, of Fla.
John Janney, of Va. Jas. Wiley, of Texas.
Henry W. Miller, of N. C. D. W. Kilbourne, of Iowa.
Geo. S. Bryant, of Cal. Alex. L. Collins, of Wis.
Patrick B. Connolly, of Pa. Jesse O. Goodwin, of Cal.
C. C. Langdon, of Ala.

Hon. Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, then moved that a committee of one from each State be appointed to receive and examine the credentials of members of the Convention when it shall assemble, said committee to be appointed in the same manner as the committee just chosen. This motion he regarded as necessary. He desired to know who were entitled to seats and who were not. The Convention could never arrive at any conclusion unless a Committee on Credentials was formed, and hence he made the motion.

The motion was agreed to, and the following gentlemen were chosen as a Committee on Credentials:

Wm. A. Mills, of Maine. Alex. H. Arthur, of Miss.
Geo. W. Nimitz, of N. H. Geo. J. Sever, of La.
Isaac G. Wright, of Vt. Joel B. Way, of Ohio.
Linus Childs, of Mass. E. M. Grey, of Ky.
Geo. D. Cross, of R. I. Edmund Casper, of Tenn.
Geo. M. Ives, of Conn. Robt. N. Houston, of Ind.
John L. Compton, of N. Y. B. S. Edwards, of Ill.
Peter Brandenburg, of N. J. John O. Brodhead, of Mo.
John C. Kunkle, of Penn. Wm. H. Gaines, of Ark.
Caleb S. Layton, of Del. H. R. Williams, of Mich.
Geo. C. Morgan, of Md. James M. Baker, of Ia.
Samuel W. W. of Va. S. S. Nichols, of Texas.
Daniel B. Baker, of N. C. J. N. Nightingale, of Iowa.
Wm. Patterson, of S. C. Wm. W. Brown, of Wis.
Wm. B. Flemming, of Ga. H. H. Clay Mudd, of Cal.
Benj. Gardner, of Ala.

Mr. CARROLL, of Florida, moved that the committee to nominate permanent officers be allowed to retire. The motion was agreed to, and the committee accordingly retired.

Mr. TALCOTT, of New York, rose to say that all the members of the New York delegation had not their credentials in the hall, some of them having been left at the hotels; so that it would be impossible to present them at that instant. He therefore moved that the Convention adjourn until 7 o'clock P. M.

Several voices: "Oh no, five o'clock!" "Five, five, and six, six!"

Mr. TALCOTT accepted the amendment, and suggested whether it would not be most convenient for the Convention to pursue the ordinary course, and permit the Chairman of the Delegation of each State to present the credentials of the members from such State to the Committee on Credentials?

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, suggested that the Committee on Credentials should meet on the platform after the adjournment, and fix a time and place for meeting.

The suggestion was adopted, and at half-past twelve o'clock the Convention adjourned to meet again at six o'clock in the evening.

EVENING SESSION—WEDNESDAY JUNE 16.

The Convention, after the recess, was promptly called to order at six o'clock by the temporary President, (Hon. GEORGE EVANS,) and the business proceeded as follows:

Mr. WATTS, of Virginia, rose and stated to the Convention that the Committee on Credentials had made some progress in the matters referred to them, but were not yet prepared to report.

Mr. WAY, of Ohio, deeming it very important that they should know who were entitled to seats in the Convention before any business was proceeded with, moved that the Convention adjourn until eleven o'clock to-morrow morning. [Cries of "No, no!"]

A motion was also made to adjourn until ten o'clock to-morrow, instead of eleven.

Mr. WATTS remarked that there were a large number of contested seats, and he thought the Committee on Credentials would do very well if they could finish their labors in two days. The committee would proceed to report on such cases as were not contested to-morrow morning.

Mr. WAY, of Ohio. There are a great many contested seats, and unless we adopt a decisive mode of procedure we shall not get organized in two days. The Committee on Credentials are not yet ready to report. They have not yet been able to come to a final determination as to who are entitled to vote, and I want to know how it is possible to come to a conclusion until we know who are entitled to vote upon any important question? Until we know who are entitled to vote we cannot take the question on any important motion. I therefore urge the adjournment of the Convention until the report of the Committee on Credentials is made.

Mr. WELSH, of Ohio. I will ask the gentleman offering the motion to adjourn to withdraw that motion until I can offer a resolution fixing the manner of voting.

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Louisiana. I will make one remark in behalf of the Louisiana delegation, in which I know I am not present, but which I think is a great undertaking, involving the interests of the nation, the Louisiana delegation deem that a blessing from Almighty God shall be invoked; and therefore, in behalf of my delegation, I will move that the Convention be opened by prayer.

The President *pro tem.* stated that a reverend gentleman had been in attendance all day to officiate as soon as permanent officers should be elected. This was the usual mode of proceeding, and he did not think it expedient to depart from usage.

Mr. WELSH, of Ohio, desired to introduce was then read, as follows:

"Resolved, That, until otherwise ordered, the rules of proceeding in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, so far as applicable, shall be adopted for the government of this Convention; and that upon the demand of the delegation from any one of the States, the Convention shall adjourn until the next day, and the delegates from each State shall cast the vote as each delegation may determine, according to the number such State may be entitled to in the college of electors."

Mr. MORGAN, of Maryland. I object at this time to the adoption of that resolution, as the Committee on Credentials have been out since the adjournment of the Convention this morning, and have not yet been able to decide who are entitled to vote. Until that is decided upon I think we are incompetent to decide upon any important question. I therefore move to lay the resolution on the table.

The motion to lay the resolution on the table was agreed to.

Mr. TYLER, of Connecticut. I am not authorized to state, but presume that in a few moments the Committee on Organization will be ready to report; and when that is done I shall rejoice to second the motion that the Convention be opened by prayer.

Mr. WAY, of Ohio. I renew my motion to adjourn till to-morrow morning. [Cries of "No, no!"]

Mr. CARROLL, of Florida. I merely wish to say that the committee appointed to report upon permanent officers of the Convention have come to a unanimous conclusion, and are ready to report. [Cheers.] I beg that the Convention will receive their report. [Applause.]

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee. I shall be as ready to receive the report of that committee as any gentleman of this Convention when the question on credentials is settled. Whether I shall be ready to receive it is another and entirely a different question. That committee, I understand, are prepared to report; but that report, when made, is not obligatory upon me, nor upon you, Mr. President, nor upon any member of this Convention. I wish to know before it is taken up, who are to vote upon it. When you have the question in regard to credentials unsettled, and not knowing who are to vote, or who are to decide whether the report is to be received or rejected, I ask the gentleman from Florida who is to vote for it? There are various contested seats here, and let me again ask who is to vote upon the report of the committee? Is it to be whether or not it shall be received? Are gentlemen to vote here who have no right to vote? Or are gentlemen to be excluded from voting who have a right to vote? I ask this assembly if they are prepared to go into legislation here when we do not know who are authorized to vote and who are not authorized to vote? I beg that the Convention be prepared to vote for the nomination of officers, but I desire to know who are to vote for them—who are to vote with me and who are to vote against me. How can you go into an important action until you know who are prepared to vote? You must therefore, of necessity, bring up your report from the Committee on Credentials before you can be prepared to say any thing in regard to the organization of the assembly. If that committee is prepared to report, I am ready, as I have before remarked, to receive their report; and if they are not ready, then I move that the Convention adjourn until eleven o'clock to-morrow. [Loud cries of "No, no!" and "Order, order!"]

Mr. CARROLL, of Florida. I will merely beg leave to say to the Convention that it is the universal practice of the House of Representatives to recognize those gentlemen as entitled to vote who are *prima facie* evidence to seats. This is the rule of the House of Representatives of New York. I think that those gentlemen who have certificates of election are entitled to vote. It does not appear to me to be necessary to wait for this report from the Committee on Credentials in order to have an organization of the Convention; and I beg leave to say that the committee are unanimous in their determination, and I presume there will be no objection to have the action of the Convention now on this question. [Applause.]

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee. If the gentleman from Florida can tell the members of this Convention and satisfy them that they have this *prima facie* evidence, he can do far more than I can. I am ready to vote for the resolutions recommended by the committee as the gentleman; but who knows who has *prima facie* evidence here by which we are to determine who shall control the deliberations of this assembly?

Mr. CARROLL. We all know who they are.

Mr. JONES. Then they know far more than I do. I am as ready to vote for the report of that committee as any body; and if gentlemen are ready to yield up their pretensions to seats, and consider that as a settled question, I am ready that that report shall be made, and am willing to vote for it.

Mr. CARROLL, of Florida. Who appointed the temporary chairman of this meeting? [Cries of "Good! good!"] and applause.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee. The Convention appointed him who are to vote for a permanent presiding officer for this body.

Mr. CARROLL. The same gentlemen who voted for the present officer.

Mr. JONES. Then you would exclude Louisiana, I presume; but I am not ready to exclude any persons entitled to seats.

Mr. BORTS, of Virginia. I rise to a question of order. We have adopted the rules of the House of Representatives. [Laughter, and cries of "No, no!"]

Mr. BORTS. Then, if we have not, we ought to. [Rejoice and laughter.] I rise to make a suggestion that we proceed according to the rules of order. We have assembled here as a deliberative body, and do not come together as a Whigs and Democrats, to obtain a triumph over each other. [Applause.] I suggest, then, that we proceed in an orderly and deliberative manner, without applause or cheering, and that we proceed according to the rules of order. It is no mode of proceeding, according to parliamentary law, for every gentleman who rises here to be clapped or hissed down for what he says. Let us proceed like men of one party; like Whigs, national Whigs, that have come up to unite in our councils; to deliberate, as men ought to deliberate, wisely and understandingly, to present that candidate to the party and the country who is best calculated to be acceptable to the party, and who is most likely to prove successful in the Democratic candidate. [Applause.] For one, I do not come here to obtain a triumph over any man. We all have our preferences, our choice, but let us proceed temperately, soberly, and harmoniously, without excessive applause upon one side or the other. I hope the

suggestion will prove sufficient, and that we will proceed immediately to adopt some rules for the government of this Convention, and thus put an end to this tumultuous mode of proceeding. I move that the Convention take up the resolution of the gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. CARROLL.)

The President *pro tem.* stated that the motion was not in order, there being a pending question.

Mr. MILLER, of Missouri. I desire to say a word in reply to the gentleman from Tennessee. The gentleman says that the Convention will not be ready to proceed to the election of officers until the Committee on Credentials shall have reported. I desire the gentleman to inform me, after the Committee on Credentials shall have reported, who is to pass upon their report? [Cries of "good," and applause.] I ask, does not the vote which is cast by each State upon the election of a chairman pass upon the action of a committee appointed by itself? Is the action of the Committee on Credentials to be more definite or ultimate than the action of the Committee on Organization? Not at all. So that, if the position of the gentleman from Tennessee be true, we have as much to say now to act upon the question of organization as we will have after the Committee on Credentials shall have reported. The question is well asked by the gentleman from Florida, who elected the chairman to preside over us? Well, who appointed the Committee on Organization? Who will the Committee on Credentials? The very body that is now called upon to appoint its own officers. And this is the first time, in my limited experience at least, that I have heard it asserted that it must first be determined who are entitled to vote before a body can organize. I hope the motion to adjourn will be negatived, and that the great object for which we have assembled will be entered upon, and finished in order, speedily and satisfactorily.

Mr. ASHMAN, of Massachusetts. I understand the Committee on Organization is ready to report.

Mr. CLAYTON, of Delaware. And the chairman begs leave to report.

Mr. ASHMAN. I have not had much experience in deliberative assemblies, [laughter,] but I have never before heard such an objection as that interposed by the gentleman from Tennessee.

A VOICE. Not I.

Mr. TRUMP. We will proceed in accordance with uniform usage. I see that the venerable chairman is now ready to report. I trust we shall organize, and then we can adjourn and proceed to business to-morrow.

Mr. CLAYTON, of Delaware. I request the gentleman from Ohio to withdraw the motion to adjourn.

Mr. CLAYTON. The gentleman can renew the motion if he shall be satisfied that the course I am about to propose is not a proper one. A committee of one from each State was appointed by this Convention, who were to select permanent officers for the consideration of the body. It was assumed by the Convention that we had the right to make the recommendations. We have acted in obedience to what we understood to be the order of the Convention, and have discharged the duty incumbent upon us. We have met and deliberated. We have differed in opinion, and differed like men engaged in a common cause. We have agreed upon a platform, and a fair vote was taken. Certain gentlemen were nominated by the majority of the committee, and then, as usual in such cases, the recommendation was agreed to as unanimous. I do not consider the mere question as to who is to be the presiding officer of this Convention as of much importance as others do. We have agreed on a high-minded and honorable gentleman, differing with me perhaps as to who shall be the nominee of the Whig party; yet I have unlimited confidence in him as a presiding officer. [Applause.]

The weight in the suggestion of the gentleman from Tennessee, (Mr. JONES,) that the question of organization should come up after the credentials shall have been examined; but this is no reason why the report on organization should not now be made. Gentlemen may move to lay it upon the table, and there it would remain. It is not a question of feeling. We can proceed to action. At all events, I shall now proceed to discharge the duty incumbent upon me, and make the report by the unanimous order of the committee.

The report of the committee designating the permanent Officers of the Convention was then submitted and read, as follows:

FOR PRESIDENT.
Gen. JOHN G. CHAPMAN, of Maryland.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT.
Nathan D. Appleton, Maine.
George W. Nimitz, New Hampshire.
Carlos Coolidge, Vermont.
John S. Sprague, New York.
Samuel B. Cranston, Rhode Island.
Robert D. Hubbard, Connecticut.
Edward P. Cowles, New York.
James Stewart, New Jersey.
John Strohm, Pennsylvania.
John S. Bryant, North Carolina.
Francis P. Phelps, Maryland.
William L. Goggin, North Carolina.
Aug. H. Sheppard, North Carolina.
Wm. Whaley, South Carolina.
Seth A. Edwards, Georgia.
Thomas J. Trow, Alabama.
Joseph B. Cobb, Mississippi.
J. C. Van Winkle, Louisiana.
Samuel F. Vinton, Ohio.
John Williams, Kentucky.
H. Sneed, Tennessee.
Milton Stapp, Indiana.
Benjamin S. Edwards, Illinois.
John G. Miller, Missouri.
William H. Gaines, Arkansas.
John S. Edwards, Michigan.
Joseph M. Hearn, Florida.
G. U. Murray, Texas.
Archibald McKinney, Iowa.
Jonathan E. Arnold, Wisconsin.
Richard W. Heath, California.

FOR SECRETARIES.
R. A. Upton, Louisiana.
James W. Bryan, North Carolina.
S. M. Ballard, Iowa.
W. Frank Stewart, California.
Schuyler Colfax, Indiana.
John C. Kunkle, Pennsylvania.
W. C. Worthington, Virginia.
N. S. Perkins, Connecticut.
George W. Meeker, Illinois.
William Thompson, Michigan.
George W. Dunlap, Kentucky.
Justin Morrill, Vermont.
George F. Fisher, Delaware.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio. I move to lay that report on the table, and desire to preface my motion with a few remarks. It is not obvious to the Convention that we cannot act upon the report of the committee, who are here by a number of Delegates far exceeding the number of votes which that State is entitled to cast for President. Louisiana, Kentucky, and other States are represented here in the same manner, by Delegates far exceeding the number of votes to which they are properly entitled. Ohio is represented by two Delegates, the same number to which she is entitled in the Electoral College. I appeal to the honor and justice of gentlemen representing in such large numbers these States, whether we can number the number of votes determining how and to what number the Committee on Credentials shall be called? We are here, a union of Whigs for the sake of the Union. I am willing to contribute to that result by having unfair objects to it; but I know that if we do now vote upon it, it will be followed by other propositions upon which there must be votes.

A Delegate raised the point of order that the gentleman could not submit a motion to lay the report on the table, and then debate it.

The President *pro tem.* stated that, until some rules should be adopted, every question would be debatable.

Mr. ASHMAN, of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman allow me to make one single inquiry, which will settle the whole matter?

Mr. SHERMAN. Certainly.

Mr. ASHMAN. Is it or is it not intended to make a contest upon this question of organization?

Mr. SHERMAN. Not at all.

Mr. ASHMAN. Then let us go on and adopt it. [Applause.]

Mr. SHERMAN. I desire to know who of the Delegates are entitled to vote. Until that is ascertained I desire no vote.

Mr. J. H. THOMAS, of Maryland. I rise to a point of order. If we have no rules, the Chair has no right to recognize the gentleman to the exclusion of the right of any body else. It is a rule of proceeding founded on common sense and decency, that when a gentleman moves to lay a proposition on the table, he ought to take his seat.

Mr. SHERMAN. Stick to your seat.

The President. The Chair overrules the point of order; the gentleman from Ohio is entitled to the floor, and no one else has a right to speak. [Applause.]

The President. I appeal to that decision, on the ground of common sense; I appeal to the common sense of all mankind and of the Convention.

[The gentleman's remarks were here interrupted by applause and hisses.]

The President. The Chair would like to submit the question to the Convention. No rules have yet been adopted, he knows of no rule allowing an appeal from his decision.

Mr. THOMAS. I move to adjourn.

The President. The gentleman from Ohio is entitled to the floor.

Mr. SHERMAN. If, by common consent, the Convention

adopt the rules of the House of Representatives, and prescribe that each State shall cast the same number of votes to which it is entitled in the Electoral College, I will take my seat. Until this shall be done, I ask that the report be laid upon the table; and I appeal to the honor and justice of the States upon each side casting the number of votes to which it is entitled in the Electoral College.

Mr. VAN TRUMP. I am in favor of laying the report upon the table. I am somewhat surprised at the inquiry of the gentleman from Massachusetts. I would like to ask the gentleman, if he intends to follow up the motion to adopt this report with any other important motion before we ascertain who are members of this Convention?

Mr. ASHMAN. Ask the question.

Mr. VAN TRUMP. I do ask it.

Mr. ASHMAN. I am happy to have in this way an opportunity afforded me to say a few words to the Convention, which perhaps I should have left unsaid but for the inquiry propounded to me. I have no motion to make. I come here for no other purpose than to promote the great good of the great Whig party of this Union, for no factious purpose. [Tremendous applause.] I am here for no factious purpose. I am here to do what I shall be temporary or permanent chairman of this body. I come here to sustain what I believe to be the great behests of the great National, Constitutional, Union Whig party of this country. [Applause.] I have nothing to conceal. Any question that any gentleman from any State chooses to put to me will I answer to the best of my ability. There is nothing of concealment about me. My friend—I feel that before this Convention is over I shall call him such—I know is a good Whig.

Mr. VAN TRUMP. I am a *trump* Whig. We come here for no purpose of strife. And now, when a committee is elected by the delegates from each State, recommends by a unanimous vote certain gentlemen for officers, what is proposed? Why, that we hesitate and falter about that organization; that we wait till to-morrow morning; that we sleep and caucus upon it.

Mr. VAN TRUMP. If my friend will allow me to say one word, I will be glad.

Mr. ASHMAN. If you will allow the vote to be taken I will resume my seat. [Applause.]

Mr. BORTS. Will the gentleman let me say one word? Mr. ASHMAN. I am glad to hear what he has to say this morning. That when the question was raised about the temporary organization, I thought it was wrong. Although there might have been some error about the time of assembling, owing to the difference in watches, I do not believe that among the Whigs of this nation any one would be found guilty of attempting a trick. And there, Chairman, when I saw you placed there, you whom I have known for many a long year, (and there is no more honorable man lives in this nation,) I was sorry to hear a protest entered against it; and now I equally regret that for the sake of the Whig party, I should be selected by the delegates of this State of this Union, to be unanimously reported as an organization, there should be a seeming opposition, I hope not a real one, to it.

So far as I am concerned, I am in no combination or confederacy. I have held no secret caucuses to present any proposition. I desire, that is, that what we do on this first day of our meeting, may be a permanent one, money, prepared on to-morrow to consider questions that shall unite us upon one great platform. I hope that, in the same feeling of conciliation and concord which has characterized our meeting to the present moment, we shall receive the report of the committee on the nominations, and then adjourn until to-morrow morning, and make a new adjournment, may proceed to the transaction of business before us.

Mr. VAN TRUMP. I desire to say that the gentleman from Massachusetts and the delegation from Ohio did not intend to make any appeal upon any point in regard to the committee for the nomination of permanent officers of the Convention; but they wish to be understood in regard to the question afterwards.

Mr. BORTS. I wish to observe to my friend from Massachusetts, and to the Convention generally, that, so far as Virginia is concerned, there is no opposition to the organization proposed. At all events, if there be, I do not participate in it. I desire to say further, that I think there is great force in the observations of the gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. SHERMAN,) that on this floor we from Virginia (of which I constitute one) have forty-five votes, which is a majority of the whole.

Mr. SHERMAN. I will withdraw my motion to lay the report on the table for the reception of the resolution of the gentleman from Virginia.

The President. The motion to lay the report on the table is withdrawn.

Cries of "Question on the report."

Mr. BORTS. I understand from the gentleman who is ready to make a report from the committee that he desires action on this resolution.

Mr. MACMILLAN. Does Mr. CLAYTON withdraw his resolution?

Mr. BORTS. I move to lay the report on the table till my resolution can be considered.

Mr. CLAYTON. I desire to know, if we are now called upon to vote on the report, who are to vote, and how we are to report? Is it contemplated that the State of Virginia shall throw forty-five votes into the scale? How are we to vote? By acclamation or by States?

A voice: "By acclamation."

Another voice: "No, not by States."

Yet another: "Vote unanimously, as you did this morning."

The President. The committee appointed to nominate permanent officers have made a report, and the question will be on the adoption of the report. In what way will the Convention express their sentiments?

Cries of "Take the vote *vis* voce."

Mr. CARROLL. I move that the Convention vote on the report precisely as they voted on the election of a temporary chairman. [Great applause.]

Mr. SPEAR, of North Carolina. I think that each State should vote according to its strength. We are all Whigs, and I trust that we will meet like brethren, and that honestly and fairly, and avoid any unnecessary discussion.

The question was then taken as to the mode in which the question on the report should be taken, and the Secretary reported 380 in favor of taking the question by States. [Laughter and applause.]

The President. The question is on the adoption of the report of the Committee on the Nomination of Permanent Officers.

After some conversation, the Chair announced that all opposition to the report of the committee was withdrawn, and the question was then taken without a division.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the announcement was received with loud cheers.

The Chair thereupon requested the Hon. Mr. CLAYTON, of Delaware, and Hon. Mr. VINTON, of Ohio, to conduct the President to the chair.

These gentlemen performed this duty, and the Hon. JOHN G. CHAPMAN, on taking the chair, was greeted with loud applause and cheers. He addressed the Convention as follows:

Gentlemen of the Whig National Convention: I tender you my most profound acknowledgments for the honor which you have conferred upon me in calling me to preside over the deliberations of this most dignified, august, and patriotic body.

Gentlemen, meet here as Whigs; we meet here as brothers; [applause:] we meet here with one common object, without one purpose to achieve; and I could wish that you had conferred on some other member of this assembly the duties and responsibilities of presiding over the deliberations of this body. I feel, gentlemen, that these duties would have been more honorably discharged by the distinguished and able gentleman whom I have for many years recognized as being among the most distinguished patriots of this nation—a gentleman whom I am proud to call my personal friend and political brother. [Applause.]

Gentlemen, I feel that I possess but little parliamentary experience, and that I bring to the discharge of the duties of the position but few of the qualifications which a presiding officer of such an assembly as this should possess. However, gentlemen, I bring the disposition to discharge my duty with a single eye to the preservation of all the rights and interests of this broad nation; with a single eye to protect the honor, interests, and happiness of this people, living under a constitution of which we are proud to be the authors; and with a single eye to establish the happy government under which we live. I bring this disposition to the chair, and I mean to discharge my duty without fear or favor.

Gentlemen, we meet here as brothers. I know no sectional feeling. I know no South or North, East or West, [applause:] I know but the country, its interests, and its happiness, as identified with the great Whig party of the country. I believe that on the maintenance of Whig principles depends the honor and happiness of the people at large; and that the honor and happiness of the people at large depends on the maintenance of Whig principles. We meet here as brothers from the North, East, South, and West. Let kindness, harmony, and peace characterize our proceedings, as it should always be with the Whig party—the great conservative party of the country. I desire that the Convention be made of the best material, and that we unite here in our deliberations, and that we do not divide here in our feelings of harmony and kindness which I do—these feelings of harmony and kindness which I think have heretofore characterized the action of

the Whig party. I invoke you, gentlemen, to look to the great interests involved in the election, and connected with the success of the candidates whom you may present for the suffrage of the Whigs of the Union. I invoke you to meet here in that spirit and discharge your duties as becomes Whigs and brethren having but one common purpose to subserve.

Gentlemen, we may differ as to men, but we do not differ as to principles. Our purpose is to carry out the principles of the Whig party, and those principles which, when administered under Whig rule, have so materially contributed to make this country the proudest position which it now holds among the nations of the earth. We have no personal preference to subserve. I myself know no man or men in the discharge of duty. I look singly and solely to the welfare of the country and the prosperity and happiness of the people who live under the happy form of government which has been ordained by us as by men who were at least as wise and politic as we are.